



N180

Directions questionnaire

(Small Claims Track)

To be completed by, or on behalf of

Who is the

First	Claimant
Second	Defendant
Third	Part 20 Claimant

in this claim.

You should note the date by which this questionnaire must be returned and the name of the court it should be returned to since this may be different from the court where the proceedings were issued.

If you have settled this claim (or if you settle it on a future date) and do not need to have it heard or tried, you must let the court know immediately.

A. Settlement/Mediation

Under the Civil Procedure Rules parties should make every effort to settle their case. At this stage you should still think about whether you and the other party(ies) can settle your dispute without going to a hearing.

You may seek to settle the claim either by direct discussion with the other party or by private or court mediation. If settlement is reached, parties may enter into a binding agreement which can be enforced if the terms of the agreement were to be breached.

Mediation is a way of resolving disputes without a court hearing, where the parties are assisted in resolving their dispute with the help of an impartial mediator. Mediation is usually carried out by telephone in one hour time limited appointments.

As part of your case, **HMCTS will provide a free, confidential Small Claims Mediation Service**. For all money claims for £10,000 or less, parties are required to attend a mediation appointment organised by the Small Claims Mediation Service.

If you do not attend mediation, you may be subject to penalties. These could include the Judge ordering you to pay costs, or the Judge automatically ruling in favour of the other party(ies).

If the claim is settled at this stage the parties can avoid further court fees, costs and time involved in preparing and attending a hearing. If you are unable to reach agreement with the other party at mediation, the claim will proceed to a small claims hearing.

You can get more information about mediation from www.gov.uk.

Small claims: This applies to claims started in the county court which would normally be allocated to the small claims track when the amount of money claimed is listed. Mediation does not apply to claims for Personal Injury or Road Traffic Accident.

B. Your contact details

Your full name

Address for service

First line of address

Second line of address

Town or city

County (optional)

Postcode

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Your phone number

Your mobile phone number

Your email address

C. Track

C1 Do you agree that the small claims track is the appropriate track for this case?

Yes

No

If No, say why not and state the track to which you believe it should be allocated

Track

The small claims track – generally for lower value and less complex claims with a value under £10,000. You can get more information by reading leaflet EX306 ‘The small claims track in civil courts’. You can get this leaflet online from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/court-and-tribunal-forms>

D. Suitability for determination without a hearing

D1 Do you consider that this claim is suitable for determination without a hearing, such as; by a judge reading and considering the case papers, witness statements and other documents filed by the parties, making a decision, and giving a note of reasons for that decision?

Yes

No

If No, state why not.

The court can determine this claim without a hearing: (a) if both parties agree; or (b) where the ‘Small Claims Paper Determination Pilot’ applies, even if the parties do not agree. For more information on the courts participating in the pilot and the cases to which the pilot may and may not apply, please see Practice Direction 51ZC to CPR 51.

Relevant reasons include that there are factual disputes which will need the judge to hear from witnesses directly (in which case please specify the factual dispute and the relevant witnesses) or that the issues are so complex they need to be argued orally.

E. About the mediation appointment

If you do not provide contact details for mediation, your appointment may not take place, which could then result in sanctions for non attendance.

Mediation appointment:

If your claim is not suitable for mediation, such as Road Traffic Accident or Personal Injury please leave mediation section blank.

E1 What is the name and contact details of the person who will be attending your mediation appointment?

Name

UK phone or mobile number

Email address

E2 Are there any dates **within the next 3 months** when you will not be able to attend your mediation appointment?

Yes

No

If Yes, list the dates you are not available below

Dates to avoid: You should enter those dates where you will not be able to attend the mediation appointment because of a holiday or other commitments. Mediation appointments usually take place Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm, except bank holidays.

E3 Will you be using an interpreter for your mediation appointment?

Yes

No

If Yes, specify the type of interpreter

Interpreter: In some circumstances the court will arrange for, and meet the cost of an interpreter. If you require an interpreter, you should contact the court immediately. Further details visit our website www.justice.gov.uk under 'guidance'.

E4 Do you believe you are vulnerable in any way or require any additional support that the mediator needs to consider?

Yes

No

If Yes, explain in what way you are vulnerable and what steps, support or adjustments you wish the mediator to consider.

Additional support: Do you have a physical, mental or learning disability or long-term health condition that means you need support during your case? We know people with disabilities sometimes need support to keep you safe or to access our services.

F. About the hearing

Hearing venue

- F1** At which County Court hearing centre would you prefer the small claims hearing to take place and why?

Location: If your claim is a designated money claim the case will usually be transferred to the claimants preferred court or the defendants home court as appropriate. However, there is no guarantee of transfer to this court. For further information see CPR Parts 3, 12, 13, 14 and 26.

Expert evidence

- F2** Are you asking for the court's permission to use the written evidence of an expert?

Yes

No

If Yes, state why and give the name of the expert (if known) and the area of expertise and the likely cost if appointed.

Expert evidence: The court must grant you permission to use an expert witness. Your notice of allocation will tell you if permission has been granted. Please note the upper limit for experts' fees that can be recovered is £750. You can get more information by reading leaflet EX306 'The small claims track in civil courts'. You can get this leaflet online from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/court-and-tribunal-forms>

Witnesses

- F3** How many witnesses, including yourself, will give evidence on your behalf at the hearing?

Witnesses: Witnesses may be asked to give evidence by either party. The court needs to have notice that you intend to call a witness. Witness expenses for travel accommodation and loss of earning should be met by the party requesting their attendance. You can get more information by reading EX342 'Coming to a court hearing'. You can get this leaflet online from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/court-and-tribunal-forms>

Hearing

- F4** Are there any days within the next nine months when you, an expert or a witness will not be able to attend court for the hearing?

Yes

No

If Yes, give details in the table below

	Dates not available
Yourself	
Expert	
Other essential witness	

Hearing dates to avoid: You should enter those dates where you, your expert or an essential witness will not be able to attend court because of a holiday or other commitments.

- F5** Will you be using an interpreter at the hearing either for yourself or for a witness?

Yes

No

If Yes, specify the type of interpreter you will be using

Interpreters: In some circumstances the court will arrange for, and meet the cost of an interpreter. If you require an interpreter, you should contact the court immediately. Further details visit our website www.justice.gov.uk under 'guidance'.

- F6** Do you believe you, or a witness who will give evidence on your behalf, are vulnerable in any way which the court needs to consider?

Yes

No

If Yes, explain in what way you or the witness are vulnerable and what steps, support or adjustments you wish the court and the judge to consider.

G. Other information

G1 Have you been advised of your right to give evidence in either Welsh or English?

Yes

No

G2 Will you and your witness(es) wish to speak Welsh or English at court or will both languages be used?

Welsh

English

Both

G3 Will documents produced to the court during the case be in Welsh or English or some in Welsh and some in English?

Welsh

English

Both

Signature

You must sign this form

Legal representative for the

First

Claimant

Second

Defendant

Third

Part 20 Claimant

Once you have completed this form, please return it to the court at the address shown on the form **N149A** Notice of proposed allocation to Small Claims Track.

You must also send a copy of this form (**N180** Directions questionnaire) to each of the other parties in this case.

Find out how HM Courts and Tribunals Service uses personal information you give them when you fill in a form: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-courts-and-tribunals-service/about/personal-information-charter>